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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC State of the Region Award Nominees

(Columbus – March 14, 2013) Community leaders who have made extraordinary efforts in contributing to the welfare of central Ohioans will be honored by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) at the State of the Region Luncheon on Thursday, April 25, at the Battelle Grand Ballroom at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. An awards ceremony honoring the winner of these prestigious awards is scheduled to take place at the luncheon.

The William C. Habig Collaborative Achievement award was created in 2006 in honor of William C. Habig, who served MORPC for 39 years, 34 years as executive director. The William C. Habig Collaborative Achievement award is annually presented to an individual or individuals who have achieved an effective effort or innovative collaborative in central Ohio. The honoree (s) will have demonstrated success in developing a specific initiative or entity that supported broad inclusion and encouraged diverse perspectives. The initiative or entity will have delivered tangible results addressing key challenges facing the region. The Nominees include:

- The Lancaster Cause/Ron Burris - a nonprofit group formed to address the drug addiction problem in Lancaster and Fairfield County leading to a new drug task force, drug awareness programs, rehab and education programs.
- Ohio Solar Communities Consortium - a regional effort to make smaller scale solar projects economically attractive to government and non-profit entities.
- Educational Service Center of Central Ohio - explore opportunities for shared services among local governments and school systems.
- Big Green Head LLC – developed the E-waste Drop-of Program, a one-day electronic recycling event offered several times a year in various communities around Central Ohio.
- idUS - an initiative of 200Columbus – a celebration of innovation and design intended to exemplify the city's "smart and open" brand characteristics and advance the goals of 200Columbus.
- Heather Bowden, Bike & Pedestrian Planner- works with both advocates and non-advocates to make communities, especially those in Central Ohio, better for all by improving the safety of our streets.
- Members of the Regional Policy Roundtable: Local Government Review Working Group - review the proposed recommendations from statewide reports that might have impact on our communities, our region and MORPC's Public Policy agenda and present their findings and recommendations to the Regional Policy Roundtable and MORPC Board.
- Union County Council of Governments - bring new technology and shared services to each member of the Council of Governments to meet current and future needs.
- United Way of Central Ohio - managed to secure a strong volunteer workforce comprised of individuals from the community striving for quality education, stable income, good health and secure housing for all of central Ohio's residents.

First introduced in 1997, the Regional Leadership Award recognizes individuals in a 12-county region (Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway, Ross and Union counties) who make extraordinary efforts to ensure the future viability of the region's communities. The Regional Leadership Award is derived from the Commission's continuing dedication to addressing issues that transcend community boundaries and to stimulating visionary thinking. The 2012 Nominees include:

- Dr. Louis J.R. Goorey, Worthington City Council
- David Anderson, Liberty Township Administrator
- Michael Wilkos, The Columbus Foundation
- Kenny McDonald, Columbus 2020
- Marjory Pizzuti, Goodwill Columbus
- Eddie Powell, The Shared Resource Network

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MORPC is a voluntary association of 41 local governments in central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information and innovative programming and intergovernmental coordinating services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing.